

Cassette

Executive Assistant _____

Military Assistant _____

Writer

Executive Secretary _____

Admiral Turner:

I checked to see what happened on this. In a nutshell, your draft letter to Sen. Bellmon--which you sent to OER for comment--arrived at OER/PSAC behind _____ reply to your memo of 28 April. He never saw it and therefore followed instructions from someone in NFAC who had written on our buck slip: "D/OER--for final response."

I showed your draft to _____ today; he thought it fine; I typed in final--herewith.

doris

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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***\$BARBIERI JR.

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MOSCOW--THE SOVIET UNION IS MAINTAINING A STUDIED SILENCE IN THE FACE OF GROWING WORLD CRITICISM OF ITS ROLE IN INSTALLING A NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN; BUT MOSCOW'S TWO MOST LOYAL ALLIES IN EASTERN EUROPE GAVE A FORETASTE OF WHAT THE KREMLIN'S JUSTIFICATION FOR THE COUP MIGHT BE.

BOTH EAST GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA JUSTIFIED THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN AS NECESSARY TO PREVENT FOREIGN "IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY FORCES" FROM LEADING AFGHANISTAN OUT OF THE SOCIALIST BLOC.

IRONICALLY, AS FAR AS CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS CONCERNED, THE REASONING IS SIMILAR TO THAT USED BY SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID I. BREZHNEV IN JUSTIFYING THE 1968 INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA THAT CRUSHED MOVES TOWARD LIBERALIZATION IN THAT COUNTRY.

IN BOTH CASES, PUTATIVE FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A SOCIALIST COUNTRY ON THE SOVIET UNION'S BORDERS WAS USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR SENDING SOVIET TROOPS. IN BOTH CASES, THE ONLY FOREIGN TROOPS THERE WERE MOSCOW'S.

DESPITE THE SHARP CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY REPRESENTED BY THE DISPATCH OF COMBAT TROOPS TO A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY, THE KREMLIN ITSELF HAS SAID NOTHING ABOUT ITS ROLE IN TOPPLING ITS FORMER ALLY, HAZIFULLAH AMIN, AND INSTALLING A NEW AFGHAN LEADER, BABRAK KARMAL.

PREVIOUSLY, SOVIET FORCES HAVE BEEN SENT ONLY TO KEEP ITS EASTERN EUROPEAN SATELLITES IN LINE; FOR EXAMPLE, HUNGARY IN 1956 AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968. TO AFRICA AND ASIA, MOSCOW HAS BEEN WILLING TO SEND ARMS AND ADVISERS, BUT HAS LET SURROGATES SUCH AS THE CUBANS AND THE VIETNAMESE DO THE FIGHTING.

EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE INDICATIONS FROM SOVIET SOURCES FRIDAY THAT THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, PRAVDA, WOULD HAVE A MAJOR ARTICLE ON THE AFGHAN SITUATION SATURDAY, NEITHER IT NOR THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER, IZVESTIA, CARRIED ANYTHING FURTHER THAN REPORTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY TASS.

TASS HAS SAID NOTHING ON ITS OWN, BUT HAS BEEN RUNNING EXTENSIVE ARTICLES FROM BOTH KAEUL, THE AFGHAN CAPITAL, AND FROM OTHER SOVIET-DOMINATED CAPITALS DEFENDING MOSCOW'S MOVE. SUCH EXTENSIVE REPORTING IS RARE UNLESS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT APPROVES OF WHAT IS BEING COVERED.